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1. The new Czech schools for social hygiene derive from the earlier Professional Womens' Training Schools (Odborna skola pro zenska povolani - OSZP) which were established throughout the Czechoslovak Republic shortly after World War I. One of these schools was set up in Opava 4967N-1755E where it was housed in a newly-built modern building on Kylesov Hill (Kylesovsky kopec) Encl (A), Point #17. At the time, the school was allegedly the third most modern and third best of its kind in Czechoslovakia. In addition to the main building, there was a smaller building with an auditorium, a stage with wings, a balcony, and lavatories and dressing rooms in the rear Encl (A), Point #27. This auditorium was used as a physical training hall, for students' dances, and for school assemblies and meetings. When Hitler occupied the Sudetenland in the Fall of 1938, the Opava OSZP school was moved to Boskovice 4929N-1640E in Moravia, and the Germans took over the school buildings. After the termination of hostilities in 1945, the school moved back to Opava. Mrs. Zdenka Polakova, who became head of the school, was an experienced teacher. Her associates, Mmes. Kalusova, Johankova, and Kolovratova, were also very capable instructors. All the OSZP schools were directly under the Ministry of Education and National Culture. Working in the Ministry in Prague and responsible for the schools were Dr. (fnu) Zykan, Eng. (fnu) Schaeffer, and Jana Penazova. The latter was a school inspector, a devout Communist and very anti-Western.

2. The OSZP course of training lasted four years; three-year courses of training (Classes I, II, and III) were offered in Opava. In order to enter the first year at the school (Class I), the girls were required to have completed five years of elementary school and three or four grades of high school. Cooking, sewing, dress-making, and home-making were the main subjects taught at the school, although academic subjects were also taught. The purpose of these schools was to train young women to become good housewives and mothers. All the schools were well attended, had a good reputation, and were well liked. Graduates of the school were usually referred to as "graduates of the family school".

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3. In 1947, the Ministry of Education and National Culture in Prague directed that as of 1 Sep 47 the first and second classes (Classes I and II) of all the Professional Womens' Training Schools (OSZP) be transferred to the Schools of Social Hygiene. This marked the beginning of the Schools of Social Hygiene. The Ministry directive applied to all schools which had previously been a part of the Professional Womens' Training School program in Bohemia and Moravia-Silesia. On 1 Sep 47, the first two classes of students were started in Opava under the new School of Social Hygiene. Altogether there were about 65 students. At the same time, the old OSZP stopped accepting students into the first two classes, but allowed third and fourth-year students to finish their studies. The first two classes of the School of Social Hygiene were located in the large, four-story building, Encl (A), Point #47 formerly occupied by the German high school, which had been hurriedly equipped to handle the classes. Teachers from the old OSZP remained to teach at the school of Social Hygiene. Mrs Polakova was chosen to stay and head the new school.

4. By the end of 1950, the last vestiges of the old OSZP had disappeared completely, and the School of Social Hygiene began to expand. In the Spring of 1950, the regional school inspector from Ostrava, Karlicek (fnu), came to inspect the school at Opava. Karlicek was from the Regional National Committee (Krajsky Narodni Vybor).

During this discussion, a high-placed adviser to the Ministry remarked that "the Republic does not need schools to teach girls how to be 'fine' and 'elegant'. What we need are schools to train young women in a practical profession".

the new Communist regime was going to bring about sweeping changes in the old OSZP schools. The Government wished especially to have enough adequately-trained nurses in the event of war, to have enough civilian-trained nurses to replace the Catholic sisters in hospitals (many of these Catholic sisters were arrested and placed in work camps), and to have enough trained social workers.

5. The Ministry of Education was very much interested that these schools be well attended. Consequently, at the end of each school year, the heads of the School of Social Hygiene made a vigorous recruiting drive in the lower schools whence students were most likely to come. This drive was conducted by talking with the heads of the lower schools and the girl students themselves, telling them of the splendid advantages and importance of attending the School of Social Hygiene, by numerous newspaper articles, by talking to parents of the girls, etc. The Ministry promised those girls who would graduate the opportunity to continue studying medicine at a university. Later, however, the Ministry kept strangely quiet about the promises. People began to lose faith and confidence after promises were not fulfilled. It was all a scheme to get as many girls as possible to take the courses.

6. These changes and the abolition of the OSZP caused widespread public indignation. Parents wanted their daughters to be well-trained in homemaking and family-raising. People submitted petitions to the Ministry of Education asking that these schools be allowed to continue. This did no good. Nonetheless, the public kept alive the hope that one day the schools would reopen. In order to pacify the people a little, the Ministry allowed the new School of Social Hygiene to teach sewing and cooking several hours a week to first year students only. This was a temporary arrangement, and sewing classes were abandoned in 1950.

7. When Czechoslovakia was divided into administrative districts and regions, some of the administrative jurisdiction over the School of Social Hygiene passed from the Ministry of Education to the Regional National Committee (Krajsky Narodni Vybor) in Ostrava, Department of Health. The Regional National Committee carried out inspections of the school.

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25X1 8. [redacted] other Schools of Social Hygiene are located in Ostrava, Vitkovice /4949N-1816E/, Cesky Tesin /4935N-1837E/, Novy Jicin /4936N-1801E/, Olomouc, Prerov, <sup>Novy</sup> Mesto na Morave /4934N-1605E/, Brno, and one class at Krnov /5006N-1743E/. [redacted] all these schools are still operating, and they are called simply Schools of Hygiene (Zdravotni Skola).

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9. At the School of Social Hygiene, girls must have reached the age of 14 to be accepted into the first year classes, and must have completed at least five grades of elementary school and four years of high school. The Ministry of Education also required that an entrance examination be given to first-year students, which consisted of oral and written tests in the Czech language and in arithmetic. These entrance exams were given in the latter part of June. In June 1949, in addition to the Czech language and arithmetic tests, an exam in "citizenship training" was given, which was, in reality, a political questionnaire.
10. In 1947, a faculty exam board was set up and in 1949, for the first time, a layman was made a member of this board. He had no teaching experience, but was an active member of the Communist Party. This member gave the "citizenship test". Before each student entered her course of study each teacher received a report sheet reporting on her acceptance exams, conduct, family background, character, her political behavior, and her school political functions. The girls were placed into sections according to the results of their entrance examinations. Students who did not measure up to entrance requirements were accepted on the condition that they would pledge to make tremendous improvement within a prescribed time as freshmen; if not, they could be dismissed from school.
11. The course at the Opava School of Social Hygiene lasted four years, at the end of which each student took detailed examinations. The first class graduated in 1951. First and second-year students at the school studied subjects of a general nature, and specialization only began toward the latter part of the second year, when the students started studying "social welfare" and "science of hygiene". "Social welfare" courses were taught by a social welfare worker from some social welfare institute. "Science of hygiene" courses were taught only by qualified physicians. Studies were started with first the human body cell, the human anatomy, diseases and sicknesses, defensive precautions against them, functions of the organs, first aid, etc. These subjects were covered in several hours of instructions a week. The students also visited social institutes for practical observance. Regular academic subjects at the school included the Czech and Russian languages, arithmetic, geography, physics, chemistry, physical training, singing, cooking, and sewing. [redacted] Some of the girls at the school voluntarily organized classes in English. Third-year students studied psychology in addition to their other subjects.
12. For upperclassmen, the school was divided into the following branches or fields of study: nursing, social welfare, childcare and infant-raising, and midwifery. At the end of the first two years, each student had to decide in which field or branch she wanted to specialize. Some of these schools did not offer studies in all of these fields, so that the student had to complete her two years of concentrated study in some one of the other Social Hygiene schools that offered the course she desired to take. Girls who chose to specialize in nursing, for example, took on-the-job training in hospitals. They wore a special type of dress, white apron, white caps, and a light-blue dress. They acted as doctors' assistants and were supervised by Catholic nurses.

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13. As of 1 Sep 49, and during the school year 1949-50, there were two sections of third-year students made up of what was called "special students" (vyjimkarky). One class consisted of about 27 students studying midwifery, and the other of about 32 studying as nurses. These "special students" were mostly older women, in some cases married and with a family. They were accorded special privileges and treatment. First, a good education was not a prerequisite for entering the school; most of them had only gone through elementary school. Second, they were not required to complete the customary first two years of the school. Instead, they entered into the third year directly. Ages of these women ranged from 20 to 30, and some had been out of school for some time. At the end of their two years of study, they took tests and were given diplomas of graduation if they passed them satisfactorily. In general, educating these women was a difficult task.

25X1 [redacted] their professional training was quite good. The ones studying for the nursing career took practical training in hospitals. The Communist regime seemed to push its program of training nurses rather hard.

14. Each class of nurse and midwife students had its chief woman instructor, who looked after the personal welfare of the students and taught the professional subjects when the physician-instructor was absent. Women specializing in childbirth lived in a four-story dormitory on top of Kylesovice Hill. The nursing students lived in a dormitory Encl (A), Point #17 near the Opava District Hospital and took their practical training in a small surgical hospital in the downtown section. Encl (A), Point #57. The special nurse and midwife students took their practical training in the Opava District Hospital Encl (A), Point #67 and the smaller surgical hospital. During the school year 1949-50 the School of Social Hygiene had the following enrollment: three sections of first-year students, two sections of second-year students, and two sections of third-year students, making a total of seven classes and about 210 students. In addition, there were about 60 "special students" enrolled in two third-year sections. The first graduation exams took place in June 1951.
15. At the beginning of the school year 1950-51 a dieticians' school was set up in conjunction with the School of Social Hygiene. The courses were to last four years. Graduates of the courses were to be assigned to head dining halls and cafeterias in factories and industrial installations, public eating places, etc. This school still exists, and courses are taught in a portion of the old OSZP buildings and partly in other buildings used by the School of Social Hygiene. There were also some six-month nurses' training courses offered at the School of Social Hygiene. "Citizenship training", that is, Communist ideology, was stressed during these six months.
16. The chief instructor in hygiene at the school was Bohumir Sanetrik, MD, head of the Opava District Hospital and a former Social Democrat. Viktorova (fnu), MD, employed as a doctor with a life insurance company in Opava, taught hygiene to freshman students. Her husband, Viktor (fnu), MD, was head of the Opava hospital for the mentally ill, Encl (A), Point #97; both lived in the hospital for the mentally ill. Tiefenbach (fnu), MD, was also a professor of hygiene, and worked in the Opava District Hospital. Stankus (fnu), MD, taught hygiene, and was with the Opava District Hospital. Schiesser (fnu), MD, taught childbirth, in addition to his duties at the childbirth center in Opava Encl (A), Point #87. Dr Schiesser lived on Mendlova ulice near the State Girls' Dormitory Encl (A), Point #37.

25X1 [redacted] The doctors were invited to sit in on meetings and conferences, where they took notes and acted as advisers.

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17. The following people were non-medical instructors at the school:

- (a) Jan Flanderka, taught physical training, mathematics, and singing.
- (b) Jaromir Dvorak, taught Czech, geography, and Czechoslovak history.
- (c) Marie Behunkova, taught Czech.
- (d) Marie Strakosova, taught cooking and homemaking; a rabid ideological type of Communist. She was a member of the "action committee", member of the CP committee at the school, and the cadre committee. worked acti

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- (e) Roubalova (fnu) from Brno, taught sewing and physical training.
- (f) Gelova (fnu), taught cooking and physical training.
- (g) Eliasova, taught sewing.
- (h) Marie Moravkova, taught mathematics, chemistry, and physics.

18. Part-time teachers at the school were as follows:

- (a) Eliska Kurzweilova, taught social welfare.
- (b) Rumplova (fnu), taught social welfare; ideological Communist.
- (c) Pavelka (fnu), taught Russian.
- (d) Trojka (fnu), taught Russian; principal of the middle school in Haji u Opavy; active Communist.
- (e) Dr Kempny, taught psychology; member of the Silesian Research Institute in Opava.
- (f) Arnost Rychly, taught singing.
- (g) Rusek (fnu), taught hospital accounting, according to methods used at the district hospital in Opava where he worked.

19. At the beginning of each mid-term semester, each teacher had to submit a short report on each student and her family's financial background. A file was set up containing this information. The data included the number of brothers and sisters, occupation of the parent or parents, monthly income of the father or breadwinner, status of movable and non-movable property, etc. It was up to the teacher to recommend if and what the student should be paid. This report was sent to the Ministry of Education, where it was approved. The Ministry then returned the report with the approved sum of money to be paid to the student. On this basis, students received from 200 to one thousand crowns for a six-month period. Students receiving such financial aid had to have excellent behavior and be good in their studies. On the basis of decisions made at teachers' meetings, some of the financially poorer students were exempt from having to pay school tuition, or were required to pay only a portion of it. It depended largely on the financial background of the family.

20. Those students whose homes were in towns some distance from Opava were quartered in the State Girls' Dormitory in Opava, Tyrsova ulice 34 /Encl (A), Point #37/. This was a modern, three-story building, with a small English garden, and a small swimming pool. The head of the girls' dormitory was Ela Belska, who was very pro-Western in her thinking and attitude. Financially poor students lived here at reduced food and dormitory rates.

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21. In about 1949 the Ministry of Education furnished the School of Social Hygiene with several million crowns worth of equipment and furniture. New metal seats, chairs, and folding blackboards were bought for the classrooms. The school's study hall, assembly room, and the management offices were furnished with large, dark cabinets, tables, chairs, etc. Furnishing of the school was completed in 1950.

25X1 22. [redacted] those who graduated as nurses were assigned to hospitals around the country, for example, hospitals in Frydek [4941N-1821E], and Ostrava-Zabreh. Some were assigned as X-ray assistants in Opava and elsewhere. These assignments were determined by the Regional National Committee, Teachers' Division. Midwives were assigned to various hospitals in the country according to the need.

23. The majority of the women students were anti-Communist in their thinking and almost the entire teaching staff was strongly anti-Communist. Communist doctrine was by-passed and overlooked in teaching, and "reactionism" was the predominant feeling. The head of the school, Mrs Polakova, was a Party member but did not run the affairs of the school in a Communist manner. At a meeting one time she was accused of harboring "reactionary sentiments" and of not running the school in the "new Communist spirit". She frequently got into trouble because of this. In each class, there were students who were members of the Czechoslovak Youth Association (Ceskoslovensky Svaz Mladeze - CSM), and who held meetings in Opava under CSM leadership. CSM leaders got direct reports on how things were being run at the school and simultaneously tried to exercise a Communist influence on life at the school through the few CSM members.

25X1 [redacted] On orders from higher authorities, the school was required to assign extra-curricular work to the students and to be under the watchful eye of Communist leaders. As a result, a group of "cultural workers" was set up to run singing exercises, poetry reading, and recitation. They were also called upon to lead discussions and make speeches at public gatherings and meetings.

24. During the school year 1949-50 life at the school became more and more strict. The CP began to have more and more to say about affairs at the school. In about October 1949 there was a new instructor assigned to the school to advise and help the weaker students. In reality, however, he was there mainly as a "political watchdog". He was a strong CSM member. On one occasion he called the entire school together and, among other things, stated that he had heard that the school was the most reactionary in the entire district. At the same time he put on a drive for new CSM members. None of the girls were interested.

25. The school year 1949-50 ended with about half of the faculty being dismissed from their jobs for no obvious reason. Letters of dismissal were issued by the Teachers' Division of the Regional National Committee in Ostrava. Mrs Polakova was retired, even though she was only 58, together with the oldest teacher, Mrs Johanka.

25X1 [redacted] It was plain, however, that the reason for these dismissals was to make room for more solid, reliable, Communist-line thinkers and Party workers. The new head of the school (name unknown) and some of the other new instructors did their best to bring about this new "feeling". [redacted] this change in administration made it very difficult for the students.

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26. The following is a list of the various buildings in Opava that were connected with the School of Social Hygiene. The points refer to Encl (A).7

- Point #1 OLD BUILDING OF THE OSZP, presently occupied by the Opava public elementary school, and a portion of the new dieticians' school. The building is four stories high, the outside is brick covered with stucco and has a red tile roof. The part showed darkened on Enclosure (A) is a recent addition to the main building.
- #2 AUDITORIUM AND HALL, formerly part of the old OSZP school; now part of the elementary school.
- #3 STATE GIRLS' DORMITORY.
- #4 SCHOOL OF SOCIAL HYGIENE; also contains a part of the new dieticians' school; formerly German high school.
- #5 SURGICAL INSTITUTE, still known as "Nemocnice radu nemeckyoh rytiru" (Hospital of the Order of German Knights). It is four stories high, brick covered with stucco.
- #6 OPAVA DISTRICT HOSPITAL. For more detailed report on this hospital, its facilities, and personnel working there, see [redacted] titled Opava District Hospital.7
- #7 FORMER CATHOLIC CLOISTER AND CHURCH, now used as a dormitory for student nurses of the School of Social Hygiene.
- #8 SANATORIUM serving as a childbirth center; four stories high.
- #9 INSTITUTE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL, located in the same park area as Opava District Hospital.

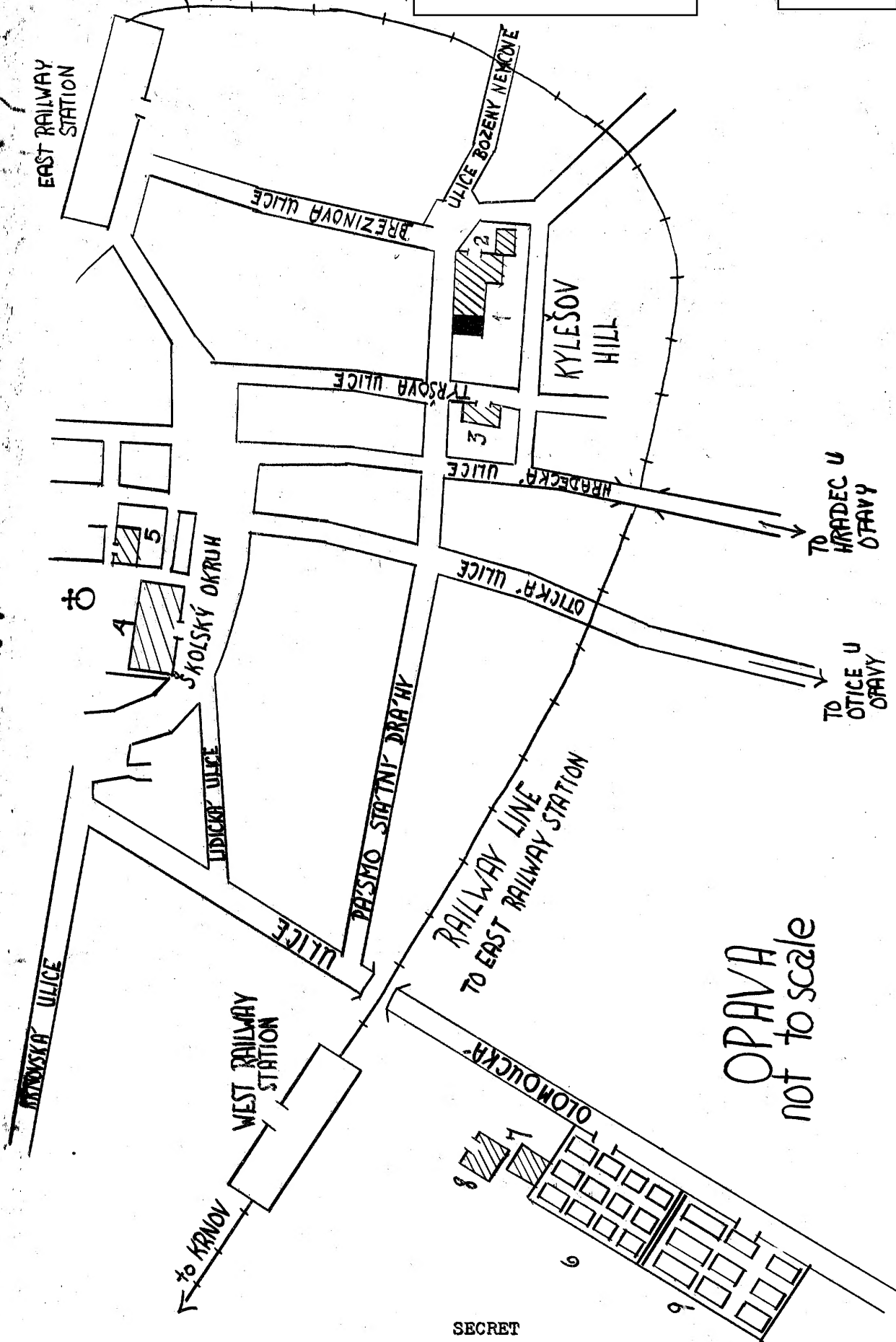
Enclosure (A): Sketch of Opava, showing installations connected with the School of Social Hygiene.

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ENCLOSURE (A)

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